

Worksession

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	8 January 2007
Prepared By	Ilona Blanchard Senior Planner
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Neighborhood Traffic Studies
Background	<p>During the FY07 budgeting process, the Council recognized that, though the City had the capacity to apply traffic calming techniques to individual roadways, there was no in-house capacity to comprehensively evaluate a larger roadway network. In response, \$25,000 was budgeted for the development of neighborhood based traffic studies by an outside consultant. Staff is preparing to issue the required Request for Proposals (RFP) for these services and has asked the Council to provide guidance on the prioritization of proposed and potential study areas. The criteria developed by the Council will be used to review projects and will assist in the evaluation of proposals submitted in response to the RFP. Suggested review criteria can be found in the Recommendation section of this memorandum.</p> <p>A number of requests for traffic studies have been informally submitted by the community, with additional areas proposed by individual Councilmembers. The Pinecrest Community Association and the Long Branch- Sligo Citizen's Association have requested assistance in assessing what solutions might be found on a wider scale as they face cut through traffic from various sources. Project areas submitted by individual Councilmembers include but are not limited to the Takoma Junction , Ritchie Avenue, and the intersection of Sycamore and Elm Avenues. Additional input from the community would be solicited prior to the final selection of study areas.</p> <p>The Safe Roadways Committee would be provided an opportunity to review and comment on individual projects and to participate in the selection of a traffic consultant. Their comments would be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.</p>
Policy	<p><u>Takoma Park Master Plan Adopted December 2000</u> Protect residential neighborhoods from commercial and through traffic.</p> <p>To discourage through traffic from using local streets, the City of Takoma Park seeks to reduce operating speeds by installing speed humps, ovals, all way stop signs and other impediments. The City also encourages walking, biking, transit use, telecommuting and flexible work schedules. Where very few cars use a street, and sidewalks are not desired by residents, a mixed street can be designated. Traffic calming measures should be considered along both selected Major Neighborhood Routes and other local neighborhood streets.</p>

Fiscal Impact	The FY07 budget includes \$25,000 for neighborhood traffic studies.
Attachments	David Godden (Long Branch-Sligo Citizens' Assoc) correspondence
Recommendation	<p>Discuss ranking priorities for planned Neighborhood Traffic Studies</p> <p>Staff recommendations for the selection of proposed study area include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The nature of the identified problem - Eligible study areas should address traffic calming concerns specifically the volume and speed of vehicular traffic. 2) The impact of the extent of the identified problem - Approved projects should address a larger roadway network at the neighborhood level and not an individual street or intersection. 3) Jurisdictional authority - Projects located on State or County roadways should be forwarded to the appropriate entity for action with available resources dedicated to local roadways.
Special Consideration	All studies would need to be completed by end of FY07.

From: "Deb and David Godden" <urbanhart@verizon.net>
To: <IlonaB@takomagov.org>
Date: Thu, May 18, 2006 9:54 AM
Subject: Traffic calming between the creeks

Ilona, thanks very much for calling this morning. Just to follow up our discussion, I have included below the list of traffic caling items our neighborhood group is considering.

We will wait to hear from you as to whether a traffic study is needed.

David Godden
7501 Central Ave.
301-891-4944

Our list:

1. Flower Avenue - two way street with dead end b/w 7318 and 7400 Flower.
2. Second speed bump on Flower, approximately in front of 7407 Flower.
3. Hilton - one way traffic in the southern direction.
4. Speed bump in front of 7303 Hilton.
5. Trescott - one way traffic in the northern direction.
6. Central - speed bumps b/w Davis and Jackson and b/w Carroll and Davis.
7. Garland - speed bumps b/w Carroll and Davis and b/w Davis and Jackson.
8. Narrow the intersection at Central and Jackson.
9. Replace the speed bump sign on Garland b/w Trescott and Flower.
10. Look into installing a traffic circle at the intersection of Hilton and Trescott.

We also talked about renewing the reflective paint on existing bumps.

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<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/>

>>> "Deb and David Godden" <urbanharto@verizon.net> 3/21/2006 4:46 PM >>>

Ilona,

Thank you for all the information you gave me this morning.

As you recommended I am copying the mayor, the city manager and our city council member.

To confirm our conversation, my name is David Godden and I live at 7501 Central Ave., off Carroll Ave. I am a member of the newly-formed Traffic Calming Working Group of the Long Branch-Sligo Creek Citizens' Association which is looking into traffic calming options for our area.

The area in question is located in Ward 2 and includes the streets from Garland Avenue to Flower Avenue and from Carroll Avenue to Sligo Creek Parkway, with Central Avenue running off Carroll Avenue through the middle.

We have noticed that traffic within our area has increased alarmingly over the last few years, and great concern has been expressed over cars travelling far in excess of the posted speed limits, with many of them disregarding stop signs. Since the last survey in 1996 many more children are living in the area with the subsequent danger from the streets narrowed by parked cars and streets without sidewalks.

It is apparent that many cars use the area as a cut through between New Hampshire Avenue and Carroll Avenue, putting an enormous strain on residents on Flower Ave where legally parked cars have been clipped by moving traffic because of the narrowness of the road. In addition, many drivers use other streets -- Hilton, Trescott, Garland and Central -- to avoid the traffic lights at Flower Avenue and Carroll, thus creating additional problems.

Following the previous survey in 1996, speed bumps were installed on some streets but we now feel that:

1. A method should be formulated to slow the traffic dramatically on Flower Avenue between Carroll and Sligo Creek Parkway.
2. More speed bumps could be installed in the area..
3. More stop signs could be installed, especially 4-way stops.
4. The speed limit could be lowered throughout the defined area.
5. The introduction of one-way streets, particularly Flower, might be helpful.

Our first step would be to make a survey of residents in the stated area and get their input into the problems they perceive, but prior to that exercise, we would like to meet with the appropriate City officials to get as much input as we can before embarking on the survey. We would also like to obtain copies of earlier traffic surveys -- those done by the City as well as by Washington Adventist Hospital -- to study prior to any survey of our neighbors.

We would be grateful if you could find time to meet with our working group so that we can better understand any problems that the City may envisage in

this matter.

Thank you in anticipation

David Godden (301 891-4944) urbanhart@verizon.net